and development and upgradation of skilled manpower to ensure food safety and quality matching with international standards.

(iii) To develop a strong market intelligence system including measures for supporting brand building, market survey and quality certification to aid exporters to identify the target markets and products.

(iv) To integrate all schemes offered for export promotion through various Ministries/organizations to gain focused attention.

Gas purchased by NTPC

†*284. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas is purchased under the National Thermal Power Corporation for the gas based power projects;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement of gas during the year 2006-07;

(c) the means through which this requirement has been met;

(d) the prices paid separately for the same; and

(e) the reasons for different prices having been paid, instead of a uniform price, for purchasing gas?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Natural Gas/Re-gasified Natural Gas (RLNG) is being purchased by NTPC for its 6 gas based power stations at Kawas, Gandhar, Anta Auriaya, Dadri and Faridabad.

(b) and (c) The estimated gas requirement for the above 6 gas based stations is 17.35 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD) at 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF). Long-term Gas Supply Agreements have been made with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) for supply of 12.93 MMSCMD of gas under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) category. However, owing to shortage of gas in the country, the actual supplies have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

fallen short of the contracted quantity. During April, 2006 to February, 2007, the same has been about 9.19 MMSCMD only.

In order to bridge the demand supply gap, NTPC has procured gas/ RLNG (Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas) on spot purchase basis from various domestic suppliers namely GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) and Hazira LNG Pvt. Ltd. to the extent of 2.82 MMSCMD. Further, NTPC received small quantity of gas from GSPCL (the contract was for one year which expired on 02.06.2006) and RLNG from Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) on fallback basis to the tune of 0.32 MMSCMD. With above sources of supplies, the total gas availability has been about 12.35 MMSCMD during the period April' 06-Feb.' 07.

(d) The price/range of prices paid for various gas/RLNG at NTPC stations are as under:

Market Sources of Gas/RLNG	Procurement under market mechanism	Price/Range of Price of Gas/RLNG on Gross Calorific Value basis at plant boundary** (US $/MMBTU#)
Domestic Market	Administered Pricing Mechanism through PSUs (Natural Gas)	US$* 2.7 to 2.8/MMBTU
International Market	Spot Basis through various Domestic Suppliers (RLNG)	US$* 10.39 to 13.14@

*(1US$ = Rs. 45/-), ** includes Transportation, taxes & duties.
@ Period (June, 2006-February, 2007)
#Million British Thermal Unit

(e) The reasons for different prices for the above gas/RLNG are as under:

- The gas under the APM category is priced by Government of India under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM).
- The price of RLNG sourced by NTPC from spot market from various domestic suppliers (who in turn source the LNG from international market) is based on competitive bidding from time to time. The price of RLNG is determined by market forces (Demand & Supply), which vary from time to time.